President's Statement.

President.—This information I shall give for the Hon'ble Members. In this Legislative Session, which had three meetings, 559 questions were admitted in all by the President out of which 464 were answered and 95 left unanswered. Of these 95, 40 were received late, that is, only on 22nd April 1930, that is, just before the commencement of this meeting. 45 questions could not be answered on account of the length of time required to collect the information. Then there are a few non-admitted questions from Messrs. Chakko and V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar. These questions were not presented within time, so they were not admitted by the President. That is how the matter stands.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Thank you, Sir.

2. Adjournment Motion re: transfer of a convict from the Central Jail to the General Hospital.

President.—I wish to know something from Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar about his adjournment motion. Is he absent?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He might have missed the first train. He had to go very urgently yesterday.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—He will be here before 3-30.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He will come by the 12-30 train.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—There are a number of buses running.

President.—I want to put certain questions to him, and he must answer them.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The adjournment motion was given yesterday. He was entitled to get the answer even yesterday.

President.—Should not the President be given some time to come to a decision?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—You could have asked him to explain and given a ruling.

President.—Sometimes it is difficult to come to a decision at the spur of the moment. So many things have to be looked into. If it is given before I come here, I would be able to consider. It is afterwards that the thing is given.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—As the Rules stand, the adjournment motion is handed over to the President after question time.

President.—The Rule does not say that the President should give the ruling forthwith. In other Councils also they take time. If it is a difficult case, we have to put it off. All that I say is that I want some time to consider, so that my decision may not be arbitrary.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is admitted. We will have to fix the time. Government also will have to be ready.

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President.—But he never asked me to wait. He did not tell me.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He had a very urgent business, and it was why he requested you to give a ruling yesterday.

President.—He said that some Members would be going being the last day and that, therefore, the ruling might be given then. That was what I understood.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—It appears somebody is ill.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Only after 5 he settled to go.

President.—He might have dropped a letter to me. That also is not done.

The Member being absent, the motion is considered withdrawn.

Hence the following adjournment motion was considered withdrawn:—

"The recent transfer of the accused in the Kottanallur murder case now undergoing imprisonment in the Central Jail to the General Hospital, Ernakulam, for special treatment for neuritis while neglecting other prisoners in a more deplorable condition suffering from the same disease, thereby causing discontent among the prisoners by this invidious and favoured treatment of one who is reputed to be very wealthy."

3. Caste and Religious Disabilities Removal Bill (*contd.*).

President.—We shall continue the consideration of the Caste and Religious Disabilities Removal Bill. Mr. P. Krishna Menon had not finished his speech when the House rose for the day. I will ask him now to proceed.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The few minutes that I took up yesterday were utilised for making a few general remarks with regard to the vagueness of the Bill so far as the disabilities are concerned, and also to the serious inconvenience that will be introduced if legislative sanction is given to the rights which are attempted to be protected.

Going over the Bill rather in detail, it may interest the House to know that the whole thing is clothed in such attractive language that the real purport and object of the Bill are certainly concealed in a glamour of statements which are likely to rouse the sympathy of those who deal with it.

Now, the preamble to it says, "Whereas it has been the policy of the State to allow the freedom of religion to everyone". Naturally the sentence that ought to follow that is 'such policy should be continued', because the prominence given to that sentence is 'to allow freedom of religion'. There is not a single provision in the Bill to provide against any inroad into that freedom. In other words, there is absolutely nothing, no disability, now, with regard to

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